



*...cultivating fitness as a community and family value*

Bobby Crim  
Founder

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Dear Criminal Justice Committee Members:

The Crim Fitness Foundation (the Crim), a Flint, MI-based non-profit, is dedicated to cultivating accessible, vibrant communities in Flint and Genesee County that encourages people to lead healthy lifestyles by integrating physical activity, healthy eating, and mindfulness into their daily lives, mentoring other communities to do the same. The Crim supports policies that create safe environments for pedestrians and bicyclists and helps further develop a multi-modal transportation system in which residents have the opportunity to choose healthy transportation options. The Crim has worked locally for the past five years with residents and policy makers on improved policies and infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists, including "Share the Road" pavement markings and signage, complete streets policies, and bicycle education activities.


Polices such as vulnerable roadway user provisions help show support and increase safety for non-motorized roadway users. In Michigan, similar enhanced penalties already exist for reckless drivers who injure or kill construction workers, children in designated school zones, or operators of slow-moving farm vehicles. Vulnerable roadway user provisions are increasing in popularity across the country with multiple states enacting laws in recent years, and legislation pending in many others.

Michigan is making great strides in improving the safety of our roadways for all users. Our state leads the nation with nearly 90 locally adopted Complete Streets ordinances and resolutions. In our local Genesee County six communities have passed Complete Streets resolution voicing their support for these concepts and policies to help create a multi-modal transportation system. Infrastructure improvements paired with ongoing efforts to improve driver's education in our state, vulnerable user policies provides law enforcement and prosecutors with an enhanced set of tools that fill the gap between basic traffic infractions and more serious crimes. Despite these efforts, a disproportionately high number of Michigan bicyclists and pedestrians are involved in crashes that result in deaths or serious injuries.


We are also pleased to note that the draft Michigan Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan 2013-2016 recommends the adoption of vulnerable roadway user legislation as a means to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

On behalf of the Crim Fitness Foundation, we applaud your efforts to help create safer streets for bicyclists throughout Michigan.

Sincerely,



Gerald Myers  
Chief Executive Officer



Lauren Holaly-Zembo  
Active Living Director